

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY H:KBJENKINS:RMS

APPROVED BY S/AM - AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY

S/S -WHLUERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 128180

EXDIS, TOSEC 234

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJ: CONGRESSIONAL REACTION TO NUCLEAR REACTOR AGREEMENT

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE UNELICITED CONGRESSIONAL REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT TODAY OF NUCLEAR REACTOR AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT. WHILE INITIAL CALLS FROM THE HILL WERE STRONGLY CRITICAL, SUBSEQUENT REACTIONS HAVE WATERED DOWN THE INITIAL IMPRESSION OF NEGATIVE REACTION. THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE KEY JOINT ATOMIC ENERGY COMMITTEE TOLD US, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT, WHILE A FEW INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF HIS COMMITTEE WERE UPSET AT NOT HAVING BEEN BRIEFED IN ADVANCE, HE WAS CONFIDENT MOST OF HIS MEMBERS WILL BE ALL RIGHT. GOLDWATER AND ROTH ALSO SUGGESTED NO PARTICULAR DIFFICULTIES WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT. SENATE REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE DIRECTOR ALSO CONFIDENT OF EVENTUAL REACTION.

2. ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE LEDGER, JACKSON PERSONALLY EXPRESSED IN STRONG TERMS (TO H) HIS IRRITATION AT NOT HAVING BEEN BRIEFED IN ADVANCE AND HIS SERIOUS DOUBTS THAT ANY SAFEGUARD PROPOSALS COULD BE DEPENDABLE. HE SAID, QTE YOU ARE MAKING MY EXPRESSION OF CONCERN LAST SUNDAY ABOUT THE WISDOM OF THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP LOOK GOOD. UNQTE
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3. PERCY HAS ISSUED A CRITICAL PRESS RELEASE DOUBTING
WHETHER WE CAN EVER BE SECURE IN PLACING NUCLEAR POTENTIAL

IN THE HANDS OF THE EGYPTIANS. STAFF AIDES TOLD US CASE
AND RIBICOFF WERE VERY UNHAPPY.

4. SECRETARY WILL RECALL THAT THE FOLLOWING WERE CONSULTED
AND ALL REACTED POSITIVELY: FULBRIGHT, AIKEN, SPARKMAN,
JAVITS, PRICE, MORGAN, HAMILTON, SCOTT AND FRELINGHUYSEN.
IN OUR CONSULTATIONS ONLY CASE HAD EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS.
OUR HOPE IS THAT SOME OF THE ABOVE WHO REACTED
POSITIVELY CAN BE PREVAILED UPON TO COME OUT PUBLICLY
IN A POSITIVE WAY AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME, PARTICULARLY
IN CONNECTION WITH A POSITIVE DECISION WITH RESPECT
TO ISRAEL. SISCO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE128180
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: KBJENKINS:RMS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740155-0730
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740641/aaaabjcv.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 AUG 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONGRESSIONAL REACTION TO NUCLEAR REACTOR AGREEMENT
TAGS: OVIP, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: JIDDA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005